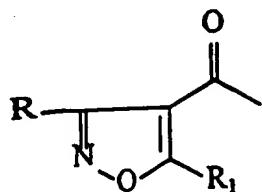
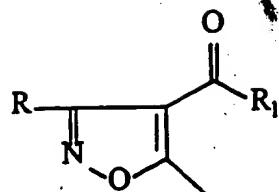


wherein:

A represents a group (A-1) or (A-2):



(A-1)



(A-2)

wherein:

R represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a cycloalkyl group containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R⁵, one or more halogen atoms or a group -CO₂R³; or a group selected from -CO₂R³, -COR⁵, cyano, nitro, -CONR³R⁴ and -S(O)_kR¹³;

R¹ represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R⁵ or one or more halogen atoms;

R² represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is substituted by one or more groups -OR⁵; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, -CO₂R⁵, -S(O)_pR⁶, -O(CH₂)_mOR⁵, -COR⁵, -NR¹¹R¹², -N(R⁸)SO₂R⁷, -N(R⁸)CO₂R⁷, -OR⁵, -OSO₂R⁷, -SO₂NR³R⁴, -CONR³R⁴, -CSNR³R⁴, -(CR⁹R¹⁰)_t-S(O)_qR⁷ and -SF₅; or two groups R², on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen

and sulfur, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, nitro, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, $=O$ (or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic acetal thereof), and $=NO-R^3$, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where present in the ring, may be in the form of a group $-SO-$ or $-SO_2-$;

n represents an integer from one to five; when n is greater than one the groups R^2 may be the same or different;

R^3 and R^4 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^5 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a straight- or branched-chain alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from two to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^6 and R^7 , which may be the same or different, each represent R^5 or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from a halogen atom, a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, $-NR^{11}NR^{12}$, $-OR^5$, and $-CONR^3R^4$;

R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} each represent a hydrogen atom or R^6 ;

R^{11} and R^{12} each represent hydrogen or R^5 ;

R^{13} represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

k , p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two;

m represents one, two or three;

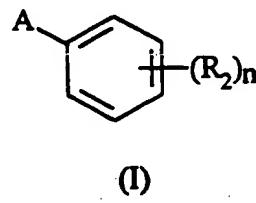
t represents an integer from one to four; when t is greater than one, the groups R^9 and R^{10} may be the same or different;

or an agriculturally acceptable salt or metal complex thereof;

encapsulated with a solid film comprising an inert material itself having no substantial herbicidal activity.

9. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 8 in which the isoxazole compound is in the form of granules of from 0.1 to 50 μm in size.

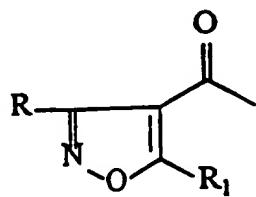
10. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of general formula I :



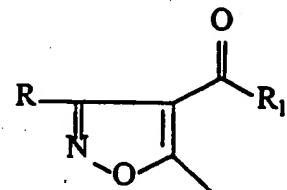
(I)

wherein:

A represents a group (A-1) or (A-2):



(A-1)



(A-2)

wherein:

R represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a cycloalkyl group containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted

by one or more groups R^5 , one or more halogen atoms or a group $-CO_2R^3$; or a group selected from $-CO_2R^3$, $-COR^5$, cyano, nitro, $-CONR^3R^4$ and $-S(O)_kR^{13}$;

R^1 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 or one or more halogen atoms;

R^2 represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is substituted by one or more groups $-OR^5$; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_mOR^5$, $-COR^5$, $-NR^{11}R^{12}$, $-N(R^8)SO_2R^7$, $-N(R^8)CO_2R^7$, $-OR^5$, $-OSO_2R^7$, $-SO_2NR^3R^4$, $-CONR^3R^4$, $-CSNR^3R^4$, $-(CR^9R^{10})_t-S(O)_qR^7$ and $-SF_5$; or two groups R^2 , on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, nitro, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, $=O$ (or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic acetal thereof), and $=NO-R^3$, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where present in the ring, may be in the form of a group $-SO-$ or $-SO_2-$;

n represents an integer from one to five; when n is greater than one the groups R^2 may be the same or different;

R^3 and R^4 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^5 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a straight- or branched-chain alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from two to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^6 and R^7 , which may be the same or different, each represent R^5 or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from a halogen

atom, a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^5$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_p\text{R}^{13}$, $-\text{NR}^{11}\text{NR}^{12}$, $-\text{OR}^5$, and $-\text{CONR}^3\text{R}^4$;

R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} each represent a hydrogen atom or R^6 ;

R^{11} and R^{12} each represent hydrogen or R^5 ;

R^{13} represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

k , p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two;

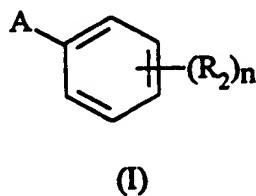
m represents one, two or three;

t represents an integer from one to four; when t is greater than one, the groups R^9 and R^{10} may be the same or different;

or an agriculturally acceptable salt or metal complex thereof.

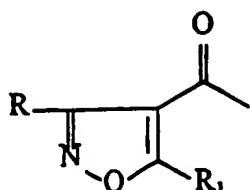
Please add new claims 18-22 as follows.

-- 18. (New) A method according to claim 1 in which the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the general formula (I)



wherein:

A represents a group (A-1):



(A-1)

wherein:

R represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a cycloalkyl group containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R⁵, one or more halogen atoms or a group -CO₂R³; or a group selected from -CO₂R³, -COR⁵, cyano, nitro, -CONR³R⁴ and -S(O)_pR¹³;

R¹ represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R⁵ or one or more halogen atoms;

R² represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is substituted by one or more groups -OR⁵; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, -CO₂R⁵, -S(O)_pR⁶, -O(CH₂)_mOR⁵, -COR⁵, -NR¹¹R¹², -N(R⁸)SO₂R⁷, -N(R⁸)CO₂R⁷, -OR⁵, -OSO₂R⁷, -SO₂NR³R⁴, -CONR³R⁴, -CSNR³R⁴, -(CR⁹R¹⁰)_t-S(O)_qR⁷ and -SF₅; or two groups R², on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, nitro, -S(O)_pR¹³, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, =O (or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic acetal thereof), and =NO-R³, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where present in the ring, may be in the form of a group -SO- or -SO₂-;

n represents an integer from one to five; when n is greater than one the groups R² may be the same or different;

R³ and R⁴ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R⁵ represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a straight- or branched-chain alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from two to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R⁶ and R⁷, which may be the same or different, each represent R⁵ or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from a halogen atom, a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, -CO₂R⁵, -S(O)_pR¹³, -NR¹¹NR¹², -OR⁵, and -CONR³R⁴;

R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ each represent a hydrogen atom or R⁶;

R¹¹ and R¹² each represent hydrogen or R⁵;

R¹³ represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

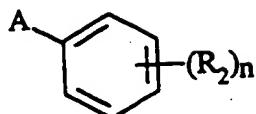
k, p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two;

m represents one, two or three;

t represents an integer from one to four; when t is greater than one, the groups R⁹ and R¹⁰ may be the same or different;

or an agriculturally acceptable salt or metal complex thereof.

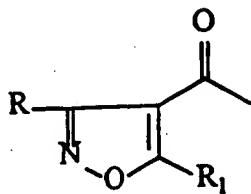
19. (New) A method according to claim 1 in which the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the general formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

A represents a group (A-1):



(A-1)

wherein:

R is hydrogen or $\text{-CO}_2\text{Et}$;

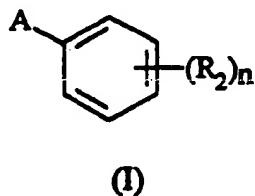
R^1 is cyclopropyl;

n is 3; and

two of the R^2 groups are on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring and, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, combine to form a 5 or 6 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring which is fused to the 2,3 or 3,4 positions of the benzoyl ring; wherein the heterocyclic ring contains two hetero atoms selected from sulphur and oxygen which are directly bonded to the 2 and 3, or 3 and 4 positions of the benzoyl ring; and in which the third R^2 group is located at the 4-substituent of the benzoyl ring and is halogen or S(O)pMe when the heterocyclic ring

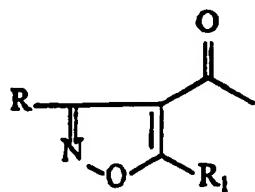
is fused to the 2,3 positions of the benzoyl ring, or the third R² group is located at the 2-substituent of the benzoyl ring and is methyl, S(O)pMe or -CH₂S(O)qMe when the heterocyclic ring is fused to the 3,4 positions of the benzoyl ring; and optionally the heterocyclic ring may be substituted by one or more halogen atoms.

20. (New) A method according to claim 1 in which the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the general formula (I)



wherein:

A represents a group (A-1):



wherein:

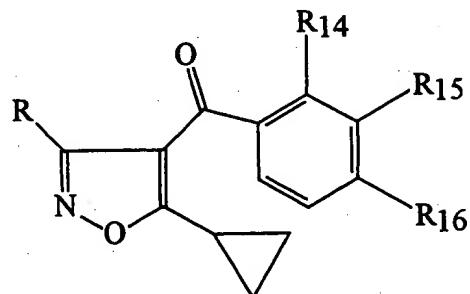
R is hydrogen or -CO₂Et;

R¹ is cyclopropyl;

R^2 is a halogen atom or a group selected from $-CF_3$, Me Et, $-S(O)pMe$, $-CH_2S(O)qMe$ and optionally halogenated methoxy or ethoxy; and

n is two or three.

21. (New) A method according to claim 1 in which the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the formula (Ia)



(Ia)

wherein:

R is hydrogen or $-CO_2Et$;

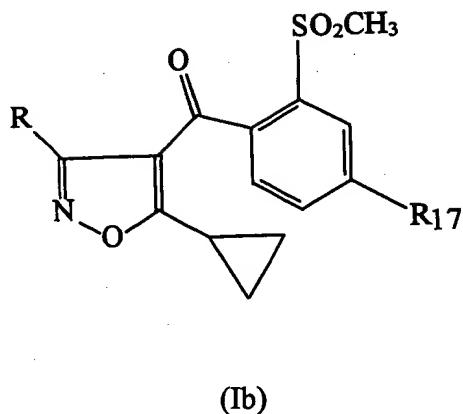
R^{14} is selected from $-S(O)pMe$, Me, Et, a chlorine, bromine or fluorine atom, methoxy, ethoxy and $-CH_2S(O)qMe$;

R^{15} is selected from a hydrogen atom, a chlorine, bromine or fluorine atom, methoxy, ethoxy and $-S(O)pMe$; and

R^{16} is selected from a hydrogen atom, a chlorine, bromine or fluorine atom, methoxy and CF_3 ;

and wherein at least one of R^{15} and R^{16} is other than hydrogen.

22. (New) A method according to claim 1 in which the compound of the general formula (I) is a compound of the formula (Ib):



wherein:

R17 is chlorine, bromine or trifluoromethyl; and

R is hydrogen or -CO2Et. - -

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are pending in the present application. In the present Amendment, claims 8, 9 and 10 have been amended and new claims 18-22 have been added. No new matter has been introduced into the present application by any of the amendments or by the addition of the new claims. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. However, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments to the claims.